



# INSECTS AND WEEDS IN FOCUS

VOL 38 ISSUE 1

ENTO/SCS

January 7, 2013

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## GRAIN HANDLERS CONFERENCE

The annual Texas Gulf Coast Grain Handlers Conference will be Thursday, January 17, 2013 at the El Campo Civic Center. The event has been held for 20 years with the objective of providing the grain handling industry with information to improve management of grain pests, improve grain quality, and to place emphasis on operation safety. The meeting agenda with details on registration for the event is included herein. Note that 6 CEU's will be available for those holding a Texas Pesticide Applicator license. Early registration at the \$20 level ends January 11 and the cost at the door will be \$25.

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## OTHER JANUARY AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

- Beltwide Cotton Conferences, San Antonio, January 7-10, 2013.
- Upper Gulf Coast Feed Grain & Cotton Production Conference, Wharton, January 24, 2013.
- Coastal Bend Crop Symposium, Corpus Christi, January 29, 2013.

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## RESULTS OF INSECT CONTROL EXPERIMENTS

The report titled, *Results of Insect Control Evaluations on Corn, Sorghum, Cotton, Sunflower, Pasture and Stored Grain in Texas Coastal Bend Counties* is available from our office as a paper copy or on the web at <http://agrilife.org/coastalbend/program-areas/entomology/>. The report will

also be available at various meetings over the next few months. Information in the report can be used to refine some pest management strategies especially for stored grain insects, understanding the impact of the cotton fleahopper on cotton fruiting, information on the verde plant bug and leaf-footed bug in cotton, sunflower moth control in sunflower, and grasshopper control in pasture.

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## SUNFLOWER MOTH CONTROL TEST

Numerically, Prevathon (rynaxypyr) provided the highest level of sunflower moth control for the two planting dates evaluated, although the level was not statistically better than Karate (lambda-cyhalothrin) or Cobalt Advanced (lambda-cyhalothrin + chlorpyrifos). All insecticides tested in the date of planting study provided a high level of control compared to the infestation levels in the untreated sunflowers (see Table 1). We hope to conduct a test in 2013 to evaluate the level of control provided by 1 compared with 2 treatments to see if any material will provide superior control with a single application.

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Table 1. Comparison of insecticides for effectiveness on sunflower moth larvae, 2012.

Treatment (oz/acre)	Larvae per 10 heads by planting date	
	2/16	3/15
Prevathon 0.43 SC (10.0 oz/acre)	1.5 <sup>b</sup>	1.5 <sup>b</sup>
Prevathon 0.43 SC (14.0 oz/acre)	1.5 <sup>b</sup>	2.0 <sup>b</sup>
Karate Zeon 2.08 CS (1.92 oz/acre)	20.5 <sup>b</sup>	9.0 <sup>b</sup>
Cobalt Advanced 2.6 EW (31.0 oz/acre)	21.5 <sup>b</sup>	7.0 <sup>b</sup>
Untreated	99.0 <sup>a</sup>	36.5 <sup>a</sup>
LSD (P = 0.05)	29.34	15.8
P > F	.0001	.0003

Means in a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different by ANOVA.

Note: The full report is available at <http://agrilife.org/coastalbend/program-areas/entomology/>.

## INSECTICIDE SEED TREATMENTS FOR CORN, SORGHUM, & COTTON

Generally the insecticide seed treatments are worth the investment for corn, sorghum and cotton for the Texas Coastal Plains. For sorghum, protection has been

provided for southern corn rootworm, seed feeding ants, greenbug, and yellow sugarcane aphid. The benefit on corn is primarily for southern corn rootworm and chinch bug. For cotton, the primary insect for which protection is provided include various thrips species and to a limited extent aphids. More advantage has been found in the Upper Gulf Coast with the cotton insecticide seed treatments. For the past two years, however, it was unlikely that the insecticide seed treatments provided little, if any dollar return. The only problem with leaving off these treatments is that the infestation level cannot be predicted. Furthermore, with yellow sugarcane aphid on sorghum and thrips on cotton, it is almost impossible to derive as much dollar return from the use of rescue foliar insecticide compared with the seed treatments.

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## INTERESTING INSECTS

Crane flies (family: Tipulidae) make up the largest number of species in the insect order Diptera with 1,600 species occurring in North America alone. They range in size from smaller than the smallest mosquito to very large measuring nearly 1.5 inches long with a wingspan of 2.67 inches. These may be mistaken for large mosquitoes, but they are not able to bite. Crane flies are often observed in late winter and very early spring on the Texas Coastal Plains. They are often noticed around lights inside and outside structures. Crane fly

legs are very long and slender and are easily broken off; many people will realize which insects these are by this characteristic alone.

Crane flies are found chiefly in damp habitats with abundant vegetation. There are grassland species and even a few in deserts. A small wingless spiderlike



species may be found on snow in the winter in the northern U. S. Larvae of many species are aquatic or semi-aquatic. Others occur in the soil or in fungi, mosses, and decaying wood. Most eat decomposing plant matter, but certain aquatic species are predators on other organisms. Larvae of a few species feed on roots of young plants and can cause extensive damage to rangeland and seedling crops. Most adults usually live only a few days, and most adults probably do not feed.

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For more information contact:

**Roy D. Parker**  
Extension Entomologist  
[rd-parker@tamu.edu](mailto:rd-parker@tamu.edu)

**Dan D. Fromme**  
Extension Agronomist  
[d-fromme@tamu.edu](mailto:d-fromme@tamu.edu)

10345 Hwy 44  
Corpus Christi, TX 78406  
(361) 265-9203  
Fax (361) 265-9434



## We're on the Web!

Newsletter available at <http://agriflife.org/coastalbend/program-areas/entomology/>

Pest Management information available at <http://txaac.org/>

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# UPPER GULF COAST GRAIN HANDLERS CONFERENCE

*JANUARY 17, 2013 - EL CAMPO CIVIC CENTER*

Preregister - \$20.<sup>00</sup>

*By contacting the Colorado County  
Extension Office by January 15th*

At the Door - \$25.<sup>00</sup>

Registration - 8:00 am  
Program - 8:25-3:10 pm

**6 CEUs**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT:**

Kara Matheney  
Colorado County  
(979) 732-2082

Brent Batchelor  
Matagorda County  
(979) 245-4100

Corrie Bowen  
Wharton County  
(979) 532-3310

Clyde Crumley  
Wharton County  
(979) 532-3310

Mike Hiller  
Jackson County  
(361) 782-3312



## Program Topics and Speakers

**Phosphine Fumigant Stewardship and Practical Use**

**Jim Sharpe**  
Degesch America, Inc

**Review of Insect Pests that Inhabit Stored Grain and  
Protectant Test Results**

**Roy Parker**  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

**Experiences with One Sample Strategy - Aflatoxin  
Determination**

**Jimmy Roppolo**  
United Ag Cooperative, Inc

**Proper Installation of Machine Guards for Worker  
Protection**

**Jason Lee**  
Planters Cooperative

**Behavior That Results in Improved Grain Bin  
Working Safety**

**James Shepard**  
Texas Cotton Ginners' Trust

**Noncommercial Pesticide License Training Materials  
and Requirements**

**Greg Baker**  
Texas Department of Agriculture

**Hands-on with Fumigation Equipment and Supplies**

**Bill Cohen**  
Pest Fog Sales

**How to Identify Key Insects in Stored Grain**

**Roy Parker**  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

**Elevator Maintenance and Sweep Auger Safety**

**Richard Sommerlatte**  
Applied Industrial Technologies